Political Intrigue – Events of 1932-33

July 1932:
- Nazi’s win the majority in the Reichstag – 37.3% of the vote
- Von Papen was made Chancellor
- Hitler refused to serve under Von Papen and demanded Chancellorship for himself
- Hindenburg had a low opinion of Hitler at this time

September 1932:
- Papen humiliated when the Reichstag passed a vote of no confidence (512 votes to 42)
- Consequently, he dissolved the Reichstag and called for another election

November 1932:
- Reichstag election saw a decline in support for the Nazis - they lost 34 seats – 33.1% of votes
- Hindenburg demanded the resignation of Papen after he planned for a presidential dictatorship in Germany – Schleicher informed H as he believed the Nazi’s couldn’t be ignored.

December 1932:
- Schleicher appointed Chancellor
- Aims were to achieve political stability & restore national confidence by creating a more broadly based gov: strategy
  1) Gain support from some of the left – especially TU
  2) To split Nazi party & attract the socialist wing of Nazi party under Strasser by offering vice-chancellor position
- This didn’t work

January 1933:
- 4th – meeting between Von Papen & Hitler – agreed Hitler should head a Nazi-Nationalist coalition gov with Papen as Chancellor - Papen sought support of army, landowners & leaders of industry
- 28th – Hindenburg withdrew support of Schleicher & he resigned
- 30th – Hindenburg appointed Hitler as Chancellor (persuaded by Von Papen)
- They hoped to pacify the Nazis & control Hitler – misjudgement

Failure of Von Papen:
- Vote of no confidence: he has to dissolve the Reichstag and call for new elections – undermined him – Hitler here still stood firm – he wouldn’t join the gov without being Chancellor
- Dissolution of the Reichstag: began to consider dissolving the Reichstag & establishing a presidential dictatorship
- Schleicher’s doubts: plan was opposed by Schleicher who found his political desperation a cause for concern – believed the Nazis couldn’t be ignored and it could cause a civil war – informed H = resignation of Papen

Failure of Schleicher:
- Doubts of TU: he aimed to get their support – deeply suspicious and encouraged political masters of SPD to break off negotiations
- Suspicion of landowners & businessmen: suspicious of public works e.g. building of roads etc...
- Isolation of Strasser: although strategy to offer Strasser vice-chancellorship was clever it failed – he was keen to accept but there were many differences between them and so they had a massive row – Hitler retained loyalty of the party’s leadership & Strasser was left isolated & forced to resign

Why was Hitler appointed?
- Papen: wanted to get back into power so made contacts with Hitler – agreed Hitler should be Chancellor & VP vice – looked for support from the army, landowners & big industrialists
- Hindenburg: withdrew his support from Schleicher and finally agreed to appoint Hitler